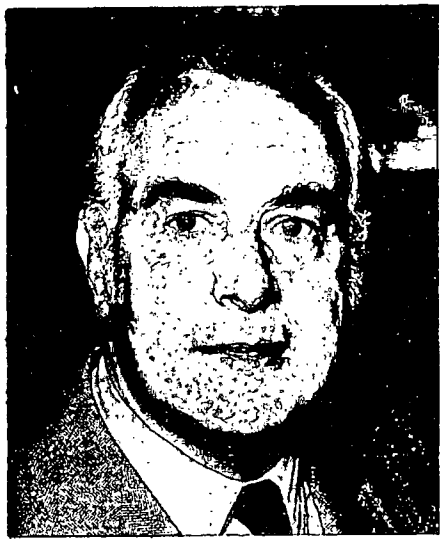
Approved for Release: 2016/08/18 C06589349

[redacted] (b)(3)

(Edward) Gough WHITLAM — AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister; Minister of Foreign Affairs

Addressed as:
Mr. Prime Minister



Leader of the Australian Labor Party since 1967, Gough (rhymes with cough) Whitlam, 57, became Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in December 1972. He intends to turn over the latter position by early 1974 to his friend and confidant, Donald Willesee, who, as his foreign affairs assistant, has frequently acted on Whitlam's behalf.

The pragmatic [redacted] Whitlam exudes self-confidence in governing Australia. He has amply demonstrated his ability to quickly implement his "independent Australia" policies. Severing relations with Taipei, his government has opened Embassies in Peking, Hanoi and East Berlin, reduced its military commitments abroad, and strengthened its ties with Japan and Indonesia in a move toward peace and prosperity. Whitlam advocates a strong free enterprise economy, the elimination of social inequality and an open-door immigration policy. He supports the ANZUS alliance but is interested in establishing a regional organization to promote political, social and economic advancement. (b)(1) (b)(3)

Friendly toward the United States, Whitlam met with President Nixon and other senior US officials in Washington before attending the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Meeting in Ottawa in July 1973. Married, Whitlam has four children.

19 October 1973

[redacted] (b)(3)

Approved for Release: 2016/08/18 C06589349